

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/751,217

Examiner

Nitin Patel

Applicant(s)

DING, YAO

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/17/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 5-25 Now renumbered 1-23 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

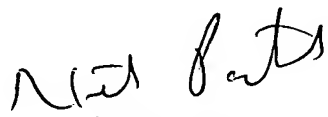
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
NITIN I. PATEL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

### REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

1. **Claims 1-2,5-25 are allowed. Claims 3-4 have been cancelled.**
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

The prior art fails to teach or suggest in a system included in a pointing device the system having an inactive state and on state, apparatus having a set of at least one sensor associated with the pointing device, each sensor being one of proximity sensor, a touch sensor operative to detect whether the pointing device is touching an active area or a button sensor operative to detect whether a button is pressed by a user; an on-off circuit coupled to the set of sensors and responsive to a triggering event involving any of those sensors; a regular coupled to the on-off circuit, responsive to a signal from the on-off circuit and capable of being turned on or off in response to that signal and an operational circuit coupled to the set of at least one sensor and to the regulator, the operational circuit being responsive to whether the regulator is on or off wherein the operational circuit can determine which one or more of the set of sensors is involved in any such triggering event; wherein each sensor of the set of at least one sensor includes a passive switch coupled to a corresponding resistor and a power source, such that for each particular sensor, no power is consumed by the particular sensor and its corresponding resistor unless there is a triggering event for the particular sensor and such that as a result of a triggering event for the particular sensor, there is a current flowing through the corresponding resistor wherein for each particular sensor a sensor signal indicative of a voltage drop across the resistor corresponding to the particular sensor coupled to the operational circuit operative to indicate that there has been a

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triggering event and wherein the system consumes substantially no power in its inactive state and operates normally in its on state as claimed in claim 1.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest in a system included in a pointing device having a plurality of sensors, apparatus having a power source; a regulator coupled to the power source; an operational circuit coupled the regulator; a first sensor and a second sensor each coupled to the operational circuit; each sensor being one of proximity sensor, a touch sensor operative to detect whether the pointing device is touching an active area or a button sensor operative to detect whether a button is pressed by a user and an on-off and an on-off circuit coupled to the regulator, the first sensor and the second sensor wherein the on-off circuit has an inactive state and an active state; the on-off circuit uses substantially no energy in its inactive state; the on-off circuit is capable of distinguishing substantially immediately upon transition from the inactive state whether that transition was in response to the first sensor or the second sensor; wherein each sensor includes a passive switch coupled to a corresponding resistor and the power source such that for each particular sensor, no power is consumed by the particular sensor and its corresponding resistor unless there is a triggering event for the particular sensor and such that as a result of a triggering event for the particular sensor, there is a current flowing through the corresponding resistor and wherein for each particular sensor, a sensor signal indicative of a voltage drop across the resistor corresponding to the particular sensor coupled to the operational circuit as claimed in claims 9 and 19.

Claims 13 and 17 also allowed it is a method of doing the steps of low voltages with regulator and sensors.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nitin Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7677. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin H. Shalwala can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Nitin Patel  
Primary Examiner  
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nitin Patel". The signature is stylized with a large initial "N" and a cursive "Patel".

NITIN I. PATEL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER